

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3602

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJ: EXCHANGES - EXTENSIONS OF STAY FOR ROMANIAN SCHOLARS AND
STUDENTS

REF: STATE 168398

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO THE CONTINUING PROBLEM OF THE EXTENSION OF GRANTS OF ROMANIAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS REFLECTED IN REFTEL. OUR INTENTION IN THIS MATTER IS TO ESTABLISH FUNCTION PROCEDURES ACCEPTABLE TO THE ROMANIANS WHICH WILL ALLOW LEGITIMATE REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS TO BE PROCESSED WITH REASONABLE SWIFTNESS AND EFFICIENCY. AT THE SAME TIME, WE DESIRE TO BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE TO THE ROMANISN THAT WE RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEMS WHICH EXTENSIONS PRESENT TO EDUCATIONAL INSITUTIONS HERE AND THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT ENCOURAGE ROMANIAN GRANTEES TO REMAIN IN THE U.S. FOR AN UNREASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME.

2. ACCORDINGLY, THE EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION CONTACTS. THE MINISTRY SEEMS TO SHARE OUR DESIRE TO REGULARIZE EFFECTIVE PROCEDURES AND RECOGNIZES THAT A CERTAIN NUMBER OF THESE REQUESTS REPRESENT THE NORMAL OFF-SHOOT OF THE PROGRAM. THE MINISTRY STATES THAT "THREE MONTHS" ARE NECES- SARY TO GAIN EXTENSION APPROVALS. THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT STEP, HOWEVER, IS FOR THE GRANTEE HIMSELF TO CONTACT HIS ROMANIAN INSTITUTION OF AFFILIATION AND GAIN APPROVAL OF HIS REQUEST TO REMAIN ABROAD BEYOND THE TEN-MONTH GRANT PERIOD. FOLLOWING THIS, THE MINISTRY GRANTS PRO FORMA APPROVAL AND APPLIES, ON BEHALF OF THE GRANTEE, FOR EXTENSION OF THE EXIT VISA. ONCE GRANTED, THE RO-
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MANIAN SCHOLAR IS FREE TO REMAIN ABROAD.

3. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS PROVIDED BY THE MINISTRY, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT, BEGINNING WITH ROMANIAN GRANTEES ARRIVING IN THE U.S. FOR THE 1974-75 ACADEMIC YEAR, THE PROGRAM AGENCIES POINT OUT TO EACH GRANTEE THAT THE GRANT PERIOD IS FOR TEN MONTHS AND THAT IT IS NOT--REPEAT NOT--ENVISIONED AS A DEGREE PROGRAM. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE STUDY PROGRAM REQUIRE AN EXTENSION, THE U.S. SIDE WILL BE GLAD TO CONSIDER SUCH FOLLOWING THE SUBMISSION OF A LETTER OF PERMISSION FROM THE GRANTEE'S ROMANIAN INSTITUTION OF AFFILIATION. EACH ROMANIAN SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO PROCURE SUCH A LETTER AND THAT NO U.S. ACTION CAN BE TAKEN WITHOUT THIS LETTER NOR CAN WE SOLICIT SUCH A LETTER ON HIS BEHALF. BASED ON THIS PRINCIPLE, EMBASSY WILL WORK OUT SPECIFIC MODALITIES WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WHICH WILL ALLOW US TO MONITOR THE PROCESS INFORMALLY. WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT THIS SYSTEM SHOULD BE PUT INTO PRACTICE IMMEDIATELY AND ARE PREPARED TO INFORM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF IT OFFICIALLY FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE.

4. STATUS OF CURRENT PENDING CASES AS FOLLOWS: MUSOLAN, APPROVAL WILL BE FORTHCOMING "SHORTLY"; CHIRICA, MINISTRY HAS NO INFORMATION ON HIS REQUEST AND WILL CHECK; PELIN AND ROMAN, SINGLE MINISTRY OFFICIAL HANDLING THIS MATTER, ON LEAVE, EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW-UP FOLLOWING HIS RETURN. (EMBASSY HOPEFUL NEW SYSTEM REQUIRING PRIOR ROMANIAN APPROVAL BEFORE U.S. APPROACH WILL ELIMINATE NECESSITY OF EMBASSY PRESENTING CASES OF ROMANIAN GRANTEES WHO HAVE EXTENDED TEN-MONTH PROGRAM TO FOUR YEARS.)

5. EMBASSY WILL TAKE UP CASE OF OCTAVIAN PETRUS DESCRIBED STATE 173189 WITH HIM PERSONALLY PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE. ANY CONTACT WITH MINISTRY ON THIS MATTER WOULD CERTAINLY RESULT IN HIS BEING ELIMINATED FROM CONSIDERATION FOR TRAVEL TO U.S.; EMBASSY MOST APPRECIATIVE OF DEPARTMENT'S EARLY WARNING, HOWEVER.

6. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS SOONEST.
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